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AMHERST

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Dr. James Wald  
Amherst Historical Society and Museum  
67 Amity Street  
Amherst, MA 01002

**RE: Cost Estimate for Ground Penetrating Radar Study and Intensive (Locational) Archaeological Survey for the Amherst Historical Society Museum in Amherst, Massachusetts**

Dear Dr. Wald,

Thank you for contacting Archaeological Services at the University of Massachusetts (UMAS) in regards to an archaeological survey for the Amherst Historical Society and Museum property. We have prepared a preliminary letter proposal and cost estimate to conduct the ground penetrating radar study and archaeological survey.

The Strong House that houses the Amherst Historical Society and Museum at 67 Amity Street is listed on the Nation Register of Historic Places and the Massachusetts Inventory of Historic Assets (MHC #AMH.1000). The Strong House was constructed in 1754 and is currently one of the oldest surviving houses in Amherst, MA. The archaeological surveys are designed to provide timely and efficient compliance with MGL c. 9, ss. 26-27C (950 CMR 70-71).

The proposed tasks to be performed by UMAS conform to MHC guidelines (950 CMR 70) and will consist of the following:

- *Application for a Massachusetts State Archaeologist's permit:* The Principal Investigator will apply for an excavation permit from the Massachusetts State Archaeologist.
- *Background research:* UMAS will review the documentation relating to the property and its surroundings in order to generate historic, environmental, and Native American contexts for the property and Amherst area, and to guide the placement of excavation units. The archaeological assessment section of the Strong House Historic Structure and Landscape Report produced by J. Edward Hood in 2002 in particular will be used in conjunction with a ground penetrating radar study to identify the locations of buried archaeological features.
- *Ground penetrating radar study:* A comprehensive ground penetrating radar study of the property will be performed, and a report generated showing the locations of detected anomalies that may indicate buried archaeological features. The ground penetrating radar study will be completed in a total of four working days, including production of a report.
- *Recommended subsurface testing:* UMAS recommends 9 square meters of subsurface excavation of the property. Excavations would include twenty 50x50 cm shovel test pits (5 square meters) and an additional 4 square meters configured at the discretion of Archaeological Services staff based on the findings of the ground penetrating radar study. The shovel test pits would be

utilized systematically in areas of high archaeological potential, in the locations where a high density of archaeological features is expected based on Hood's assessment, and to "ground truth" expected ground penetrating radar anomalies. Larger excavation units will be used to investigate and identify, if possible, sizable or deep features. Subsurface testing will be completed in a total of three working days, and is expected to yield numerous artifacts.

- *Completion memorandum:* A memorandum summarizing the fieldwork findings and making recommendations will be submitted to the sponsor within five business days of the completion of subsurface testing. After review by the sponsor, a copy of this memorandum will be sent to the Massachusetts Historical Commission for review.
- *Processing, analysis, and curation of artifacts and documents:* Any artifacts or cultural material recovered during the archaeological survey will be processed and stored at the laboratory of UMAS. Documents pertaining to the research and fieldwork will also be curated at the UMAS lab.
- *Comprehensive final report:* A final report will be prepared presenting the results of the archaeological survey and making recommendations for future property management. Copies of the final report will be provided to the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

The estimated total cost for the ground penetrating radar study and intensive (locational) survey at the Amherst Historical Society and Museum property, including the permit application, background research/contexts, ground penetrating radar study, subsurface testing, artifact analysis and curation, completion memorandum, and comprehensive report is approximately **\$20,000**.

This preliminary proposal and cost estimate does not constitute a formal proposal or commitment by the University of Massachusetts. If the cost estimate in this preliminary proposal is acceptable, Archaeological Services will have the University's Office of Grants and Contracts promptly send you a formal proposal and contract acceptance form for this project detailing the testing strategies and schedule.

To expedite a contract acceptance, or if you have any questions or concerns regarding the cost estimate or fieldwork, please do not hesitate to call or e-mail. I can be reached at (413)-545-0916 or [ericjohnson@anthro.umass.edu](mailto:ericjohnson@anthro.umass.edu). Thank you for the opportunity to submit a proposal for archaeological survey at the Strong House, where the potential for significant archaeological and historical resources is very exciting!

Sincerely,



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